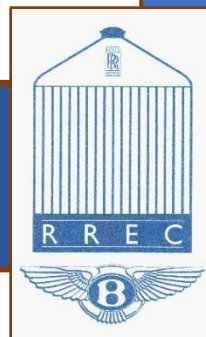


North Eastern Section Newsletter

October 2025



Chairmans Chat

When I joined R.R.E.C the dominant age group were 20-40 years old. The older age groups were our mentors and fascinating they were too, they mostly had pre-war motor racing or war time experiences of Rolls-Royce. Modest men of immense achievement. How lucky I was to know them.
Roger Hall



Contact Point Comments

I wrote in the last Newsletter about my issues around roof foam insulation and the decision I took to replace my house roof. Reroofing now completed – wallet depleted! The Section Weekend went extraordinarily smoothly reflecting the time and effort put in by Nick and Anita Clark over the past two years planning the Event. Grateful thanks go to them from your Committee and all those who attended from right across the Country. Everyone who attended was clearly intent on enjoying themselves – and did so! A Report and photographs are elsewhere in this Newsletter.



The Section has paid a penalty charge for a breach of copyright in a past Newsletter reduced by 50% in recognition that the Section is a non-profit making organisation. The Newsletters on the Section website have been taken down in case there have been other photographs which breach copyright. Negotiations were handled by David Robinson, acting RREC CEO, and our thanks to him for that.

Peter Charlton has been our Newsletter Editor for some time but has chosen to stand down from that role because of this breach of copyright issue. I must make it absolutely crystal clear that this outcome was not wished for or wanted by your Committee and Peter has been asked to reconsider his decision.

Our thanks go to Peter for the work he put into producing the Newsletter particularly the technical content which lifted it from just being a record of social events.

This Newsletter includes a Booking Form for the Section Christmas Event at the Old Mill Inn, Thinford Road Metal Bridge, Tursdale Co Durham DH6 5NX on **WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER**, the **SECOND** Wednesday in the month rather than the usual third Wednesday meeting. The Event is subsidised by the Section.

The AGM for the Section will be held on Sunday, 25th January 2026 at Headlam Hall and further information about menu choices will follow immediately after the New year.

Rod MacLeod
Secretary.

WELFARE

Members are asked to let the Chairman or Secretary know if they are aware of other members of the Section who are unwell or in hospital.

Front Cover

Top left: Gillian Stoker and Peter Charlton, Nick and Anita Clark and Paul and Sophie Tunnicliffe enjoying the hospitality at Duncombe Park Charity Clay Days event in 2025.

Bottom Right:

Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars on display at the Northern Rally, Harewood House near Leeds in 2025.



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Welcome to new section members

The North Eastern Section covers an area bounded by the Scottish Borders including Cumbria to the west, Northumbria to the east and County Durham to the south of the region. You will be made most welcome at our local gatherings whether it be a social evening or a North Eastern Section car rally event. We are a friendly group of people so please make yourself known to us to be assured a warm welcome.

Mr James O'Neil, Stanley Co Durham

Peter McLachlan, Hexham Northumberland

Mr Richard Roberts, Durham Co Durham

Events for 2025

Noggin & Natter at the Old Mill Metal Bridge Coxhoe - Co. Durham.
on the third Wednesday of the month

Classic Car Gathering at Wynyard Hall Rose Garden near to Stockton-on-Tees.
Sunday 19th October

Launch of the 2025/26 Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club yearbook at The Peninsula.
Monday 1st December (See Spirit & Speed for details).

Section Christmas Party at The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe Co Durham
Wednesday 10th December

Proposed events for 2026

Noggin & Natter at the Old Mill Metal Bridge Coxhoe, Co. Durham
on the third Wednesday of the month

North Eastern Section AGM at Headlam Hall Hotel and Spa near Darlington DL2 3HA
Sunday 25th January 2026

Mystery event in Thirsk North Yorkshire (Details TBC)
April 2026

The Yorkshire Charity Clay Day at Duncombe Park near Helmsley in North Yorkshire.
Sunday 10th May 2026

Visit to Kiplin Hall and Gardens in Scorton, North Yorkshire, with the Yorkshire Section.
Sunday 7th June 2026

Annual Rally & Concours d'Elegance at Kelmarsh Hall, Kelmarsh, in Northamptonshire.
Friday 26th-Sunday 28th June 2026

Christmas Party at The Old Mill near Coxhoe in Co. Durham

Wednesday 10th December 2025

The North Eastern sections Christmas Party will be held at The Old Mill in Metal Bridge, just outside of Coxhoe in Co. Durham DL6 5NX. The Old Mill started its life in 1813 as a Paper Mill and then became a joint Corn Mill and Paper Mill until the 1890's when its business was transferred to a nearby village. From then, the building had a number of uses but latterly as a pub that now provides guests and residents with food, drink and accommodation. So why not come along and enjoy the delights of The Old Mills Christmas Fayre Menu to get you in the mood for the festive period. Please see the attached booking form on page 17 of the Newsletter.

Note: The section Christmas Party is held on the **2nd Wednesday** of December, not the 3rd. The reason for this is in previous years the 3rd Wednesday in December was very close to Christmas Day so your committee decided to hold the Christmas Party on the 2nd Wednesday of the month each year to allow more time for members in the run-up to the festive period.

Where we've been

N.E.C.P.W.A. Newby Hall Concours & Autojumble

Sunday 20th July 2025



Newby Hall is a country house near Ripon in North Yorkshire that is a Grade 1 listed building containing a fine collection of furniture and paintings and is surrounded by beautiful gardens that are open to the public. On Sunday 20th July, Newby Hall had



a backdrop of vintage and classic motor vehicles for this annual event

that provides a platform for numerous car club members to display their classic vehicles. The rally appeals to the serious enthusiasts with auto-jumble stalls to rummage around to try and find that elusive spare you have been looking for.

The weather was nice to start with, light clouds and sunny intervals as members arrived and parked in our allotted area. Nick Clark in his 20hp, John Harrison with his Silver Cloud 3 and Allan Fishburn in his 20/25 were among the first to arrive. They were quick to head off to the auto-jumble to try and bag a few bargains. On their return it was time for a cuppa and a catch up to see who'd got the best deal. It was then time to head off and look at all the vehicles on display and the wide variety of bric-a-brac and catering stands, with some members visiting the Hall and Gardens.

As time wore on the clouds started to darken and by mid-afternoon the heavens opened. This signalled a mass exodus, exhibitors picnic tables and chairs thrown into boots of cars, visitors stampeding to the exits to get back to their mode of transport in the car park. If there's one way to end a classic car show its rain! It was a great pity that the English weather spoilt such a good day, but there again it's not the first time, and it won't be the last. Well done to all involved.



The 45th North of England Rally at Harewood House Leeds

Sunday 3rd August 2025



The Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club held their Northern Rally in the grounds of Harewood House near Leeds in Yorkshire. This is the 45th year the club has been invited by David Lascelles the Earl of Harewood to display an impressive selection of Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars lined up on his lawn in front of the house. He said it is a delight to get up close to such fine craftsmanship and talk to the owners about their pride and joy.

With a weather warning from the Met Office informing people about the onset of storm Floris, this did not deter members from attending the rally. Some did encounter heavy rain on their journeys to

Harewood, but on the day the weather turned out to be nice and sunny with a pleasant cooling breeze. As members arrived, they were marshalled into position to form a display of Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars dating from 1929 to the present-day. As in previous years the cars were lined up in rows in front of Harewood House. Row A included parade cars and a selection of post 1955 6 cylinder and V8 engine cars, row B pre-WWII cars, row C SY & SZ cars and finally row D displaying late 1990's and new Millenium cars.



As lunch time approached the judges wandered around to find winners for the seven trophies awarded each year. First the Harewood Trophy (best car in show), 2nd the Bentley Motors Trophy (best Crewe built Bentley), 3rd the Ian Rimmer Trophy (best SY or SZ car in show), 4th the Lancaster Trophy (best post war Rolls-Royce), 5th the Appleyard Ripon Trophy (best pre-war car Rolls-Royce or Bentley), 6th the JCT 600 Trophy (best two door car in show) and finally the Graham Pearce Trophy awarded to the car travelling the furthest distance to attend the rally.

This year a North Eastern section member Mr Paul Tunncliffe, was awarded the Ian Rimmer Trophy in recognition for his dedication in the recommissioning of his 1994 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit III with his car being deemed the best SZ car in show. Well done to Paul.



In the mid-afternoon, a parade of both Rolls-Royce and Bentleys was held, with

Harewood House providing a beautiful back-drop for the display of these fine motor cars. Nick Clark and Allan Fishburn represented the North Eastern section in the parade displaying their pre-war cars, a 1929 20hp Sportsman Coupe' and a 1934 20/25 Coupe'. On completion of the parade the next job was to present the trophies to all the winners of each class, and in particular Paul, who's beaming smile could not hide his delight in taking home a trophy.

Once again, the Northern Rally was a great success and our thanks go out to the organisers and marshals but in particular Mike Blunsom of the Yorkshire section whose dedication makes the event what it is, A REIGHT GOOD DO. Many thanks to all those involved.



Brancepeth Castle Vintage and Sports Car Show in Co. Durham

Saturday 9th August 2025



Brancepeth Vintage and Sporting Car Show was held in the grounds of Brancepeth Castle in County Durham in aid of St Cuthberts Hospice and St Brandons Church. Brancepeth Castle was the stronghold of the Neville family in medieval times. The Battle of Neville's Cross, between England and Scotland, was planned in the castle's Baron's Hall. The Nevilles forfeited their



estates after the failed Rising of the North, and the Castle went through a number of hands before being bought by the wealthy Russell family in the late 18th-century. The current building is a combination of the Neville's medieval towers with early 19th-century additions by the Russell's, who employed Edinburgh architect John Paterson to sensitively create a grand stately home within the walls.

Four members from the section attended, Nick Clark in his 1929 20hp Sportsmans Coupe' Peter Charlton in his 1933 20/25 Sedan-de-Ville by Barker, Allan Fishburn in his 1934 20/25 Coupe' and John Harrison in his 1934 Rolls-Royce 20/25 Sport Saloon both being coach built by Hooper. The castle provided an excellent backdrop to the display of pre-1950's classic cars and not only that, the weather was kind, a slightly cool breeze in the morning but in the afternoon the sun came out making it a great day for all.



Ingleby Arncliffe Classic Car Show near Northallerton North Yorkshire

Saturday 23rd August 2025



Ingleby Arncliffe is a small village in the Hambleton district of North Yorkshire. It is situated to the north of the market town of Northallerton and south east of the small town of Stokesley. Ingleby Village Classic Car Show was held on the cricket ground that is adjacent to the village pub The Blue Bell Inn.



The show is organised in conjunction with Teesside Yesteryear Motor Club who organise a wide variety of classic motor transport displays for the public to see, with all the gate receipts being donated to various local charities. The weather stayed warm but it was overcast, with the odd bright sunny spell throughout the day. The Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club were well represented and provided a fine display of the marque, with the oldest car being Francis Dodds 1914 Silver Ghost by coach builder Hamshaw Limited. Other cars included Nick Clarks 1929 20hp Sportsman's Coupe' by Freestone & Webb, Allan Fishburns 1934 20/25 Coupe' by Hooper, Peter Kitchings 1936 25/30 Limousine by Park Ward, John Harrison's 1934 20/25 Sports



Saloon with coachwork by Hooper, Paul Tunnickliffes 1994 Silver Spirit III, Peter Charlton's 1933 20/25 Sedan-de-Ville by Barker and finally Graham Blackburn's 1971 Silver Shadow 1. All the cars were parked around the edge of the show ground on a slight incline providing an excellent display. As the day progressed and lunchtime approached some



members headed to the local hospitality venues to replenish calories and others tucked into their picnics. The afternoon was spent socialising and chatting to like-minded people who enjoy talking about their classic vehicles. The North Eastern Section of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parties involved in organising and providing an excellent venue and facilities for people to enjoy a classic car show. Well done to all.

Pre 2000 Classic Car gathering at Middlesbrough & District Motor Club **Sunday 31st August 2025**



Middlesbrough & District Motor Club is based in Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, the club house being the original Coulby Manor House and gardens. It was a fine sunny morning with a favourable forecast for the rest of the day. On arrival, we were greeted with a welcome cup of tea along with a bacon or sausage bun that was greatly appreciated. There were only two North Eastern section members in attendance, Nick Clark in his 1926 Rolls-Royce 20hp Saloon by Park Ward, and John Harrison in

his 1965 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III.

The event is a small local gathering organised by Middlesbrough & District Motor Club for like-minded enthusiasts who just enjoy getting together for a good chin-wag about all things old. What a great way to spend a Sunday, this was made even better by the dry sunny & warm weather.

We all look forward to the next gathering.



The North Eastern Section Autumn Break at Headlam Hall, Gainford in Teesdale
to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway
Thursday 25th – Monday 29th September 2025



This autumn break was the brainchild of Nick Clark two years ago whose idea was to visit some of the many S&DR 200 Celebration events in the area over this historic weekend. The event was advertised in January's NE Section Newsletter and then in February Spirit & Speed. Within a couple of weeks, Headlam Hall was fully booked with members travelling from near and far. Nearest at six miles were Audrey and Tony Gray from Darlington with Tony and Linda Hunt from Oakhampton in their 1927 Phantom 1 travelling 325 miles - now that's what I call dedication! So, with this huge response in interest, it was "Full Steam Ahead" for the event.



The inaugural journey of Locomotion No. 1 on the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1825 represented a major turning point in history, and two hundred years later, members of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club celebrated this extraordinary milestone.



The Stockton & Darlington Railway was established as a way to transport coal and other mixed goods from the mines of south Durham to the River Tees at Stockton, via Shildon, Darlington and Yarm. The first steam locomotive to run on the line was called Locomotion No. 1 which was built by George Stephenson and his son Robert. George drove the engine himself on the opening day at speeds of up to 12 mph, slow in comparison to today's achievements.

Thursday the 25th Members started to arrive mid-afternoon and once they had checked in headed to the Stable Lounge where they were met with a warm welcome from Nick and Anita who presented them with their goody bags and rally programme. A traditional Cream tea consisting of scones, strawberry jam and of course clotted cream was next in order, or drinks from the bar. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, so some members took advantage of the good weather and sat on the terrace while reconnecting with old friends and meeting new people and getting to know them. In the evening after drinks at the bar, dinner was served in the Coach House Suite in an informal atmosphere and as in the afternoon, giving the opportunity for members and guests to get to know one another and long-standing members time to catch up.



Friday the 26th After a hearty breakfast members headed off to Locomotion in Shildon to witness the re-enactment of the historic journey of Locomotion No.1, then afterwards visiting the large collection of locomotives, rolling stock and railway memorabilia in the museum. On arrival we were directed to our designated parking area, providing an admirable display of cars of the marque, enough to attract the attention of Guy Martin, former British motorcycle racer, and television presenter who was attending the event.



At approximately 11am Locomotion No.1 made its first run with Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, on board for the short journey towards the museum grounds with a commentary provided by Tim Dunn, a railway historian and TV presenter. People lined the tracks as the locomotive steamed at 10mph, flags waved, and people cheered as the 'iconic' engine passed by. A brass band played old melodies alongside modern tunes as Guy helped drive the train with the Duke of Edinburgh on board. Once all the formalities were complete Locomotion No.1 left Shildon and headed off to Hopetown in Darlington for the next part of the celebrations. With the re-enactment complete a cuppa in the cafe was in order, and then a look round the museum to see the large collection of exhibits on display, consisting of both steam and diesel locomotives. The Deltic prototype and D200 Type 4, both English Electric locomotives are on prominent display as you enter the



museum, with the steam locomotives taking up a more central position within the hall.

These include LMS Stanier Black Five 5000 and SR Bulleid Light Pacific Battle of Britain Class 34051 Winston Churchill, the very locomotive that hauled Sir Winston Churchills funeral train. By late afternoon, members headed back to Headlam in preparation for an aperitif at the bar before our evening meal in the Coach House Suite, rounding off a very historic and enjoyable day.

Saturday the 27th Another full English breakfast to start the day to give us plenty of energy for our visit to Preston Park Museum in Stockton-on-Tees. The museum is a place where we stepped back in time by visiting the Victorian Street and exploring the museums galleries and reinterpreting the important story of the Stockton & Darlington Railway close to the original 1825 track-bed.



Unfortunately, Dylis and Rod were apprehended in the police station for lurking without intent. Once they were released, they headed to the Park Café for a cuppa to help them get over their trauma!

The Spence Building named after Colonel Gilbert Ormerod Spence, who donated over 3,000 of the objects that are on display. There was an exhibition 'Tracks of Change' which is part of S&DR200 celebrations, that was well worth a visit.

Saturday evening was a dress to impress Gala Dinner with a pre-dinner Canapé and Prosecco reception and dinner in the Coach House Suite. This was followed by live music provided by Chameleon a six-piece band, many members being transported back to their youth by dancing the night away.



Sunday the 28th Members had an early start as we were travelling to York via coach as there is very little parking available in and around the National Railway Museum. There are approximately 280 exhibits in the National Collection, with around 100 being at York and the remainder divided between Locomotion at Shildon and other museums and heritage railways.



The museum was established on its present site, the former York North Locomotive Depot, in 1975, since then the collection has continued to grow. The permanent display includes Palaces on Wheels a collection of saloon coaches that transported royalty up to the 1970s. Other exhibits that were on display included

LMS Princess Coronation Class 6229 Duchess of Hamilton, that was rescued from Billy Butlins Holiday Camp, Minehead in 1976. It stands alongside 4468 Mallard a LNER Gresley Pacific which on 3rd July 1938 broke the world speed record for steam locomotives at 126 mph; this record still stands today.

As the afternoon wore on members headed back to the coach pick-up point to travel back to Headlam Hall in readiness for the final dinner of the autumn break. The evening was rounded off with a raffle in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service with prizes donated by club members and Headlam Hall

providing a one-night stay for two including dinner and breakfast. The raffle raised approximately £500 for the charity, a worthy cause indeed. Many thanks to all contributors.



Monday the 29th A late rise and leisurely breakfast were the order of the day before members packed their cases and loaded up the car in readiness for the journey home after an excellent long weekend. Finally, on behalf of all the rally participants, I must express our sincere gratitude to Nick and Anita for organising the North Eastern Sections' Autumn Break. The event was a huge success, and it was very clear that a lot of hard work and dedication had gone into its planning, so once again thank you for all your hard work in making the event the success it was, well done.

Finally, the North Eastern Section would like to thank The Real Car Company, P&A Wood IntroCar and the RREC for their sponsorship of this event, it was greatly appreciated.



John Harrison,
Newsletter Editor.

The 200th Anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway recorded for posterity.

Paul Tunncliffe the North Eastern sections very own aspiring film director and commentator has produced a video of the SD&R 200 anniversary celebrations filmed in Shildon on the day. Paul has posted the video on his You-Tube channel 'Life on Cars' and can be accessed via the following link below.

[ROLLS-ROYCE RREC Rally - 200th Anniversary of the STOCKTON & DARLINGTON Railway with Guy Martin!](#)

Members spares for sale

Pre-War Rolls-Royce ammeter gauge. £275 Phone: 07906068622

Auto-Vac gaskets. Pair of top gaskets £9.99, fuel switch gasket £7.99. £2 p&p. petercharlton1@yahoo.com

20HP, 20/25 and Phantom engine linkages. Offers. e: mail: petercharlton1@yahoo.com

20/25 Starting motor. Overhauled running well. £350 Phone: 07906 068622.

20/25 Ace Wheel discs for sale. £30. Phone 07906 068622.

Silver Shadow tool box, £150. Phone: 07906 068622.

For Sale: 1934 Rolls-Royce 20/25 Hooper 2 door Coupe'.

A one-off designed car, with overdrive fitted. or for further details see Trade Classics or telephone 01642 551835



Spares wanted by members:

A good 20/25 Cylinder Head and Block. Phone: 07906 068622

The two Silver Cloud combination spanners. Phone: 07906 068622

20HP Radiator, must be in good condition. Phone: 07906 068622

Any Rolls-Royce or Bentley Bakelite electrical fittings and junction boxes. Phone: 07906 068622

20/25 Temperature gauge complete with bulb. Phone: 07906 068622

20HP Starter solenoid. Phone: 07906 068622

Bakelite mushroom coil and ballast resistor holder. Phone: 07906 163427

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Follow the recommissioning journey of a 1994 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit III



Paul Tunncliffe a committee member of the North Eastern Section discovered a 1994 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit III that had been abandoned in a car park, left



sitting out in the British weather for a number of years. With great trepidation he made the decision to buy the car with the intention to restore and recommission the car back to its former glory. Follow Paul's incredible journey in the recommissioning of his 1994 Silver Spirit III on his YouTube Channel 'Life on Cars'.



Newsletter articles from times gone by.

VISIT TO HAPERLEY PRISONER OF WAR CAMP in 2005

We could not have wished for a better summer's day for our visit. The sun shone and those sheepskin rugs from the cars were just great for sunbathing on. The tour around the P.O.W. huts was very interesting.

It was amazing to hear how ingenious the prisoners had been, particularly when making the place feel like home. The curtains painted on wood, and the pictures of animals and scenery to remind the men of home have amazingly survived more than sixty years later. In the theatre they 'relocated' various materials to make scenery, panelling and even wigs, (which were frequently made from old sacks) for the actors who were playing women's parts. It was lovely to catch up with friends and meet new members. If you were not able to join us on the day, make a point of going to see the camp while it is still in its original state, not forgetting to sample a good meal or a drink and traditional cake in the restaurant. Watch out for the chickens and rooster though. I could swear I saw one of them doing the 'goose-step' in the picnic area!



VISIT TO DILSTON CASTLE in 2005

It is, I believe, well known that a high proportion of all Rolls-Royce motor cars ever built, are still on the road. I do not know how the percentage compares with the number of MGs built and, on the road, but there are still a great many of them around and a considerable number were at Dilston Castle on Sunday 3rd July. The MG Owners Club sub divides into regions in the same way that the RREC does into Sections and on that day the Northumbria Region organised a 'Classic Vehicle Show' at Dilston. The weather was kind and our cars were allotted a space within the walled garden out of the breeze next to the



TVR club. In contrast to the throaty V8s there were fourteen section members cars present, twelve being of the Marque together with Ray Andrews' 1955 Citroen 15/6H and a Daimler Majestic Major belonging to Barry Pickering and driven by Susan Tong. If there had been a prize for the longest distance travelled, then my friend Mike Allen would have been in the running as he had driven up from Ashford in Kent for the event. And talking of prizes, the cars were judged in age groups and John Harrison won the best car in the 1920's/30's age with his beautiful 20/25 Hooper Sports Saloon and Derek Moss the 40's/50's with his stunning Silver Dawn. Our two dogs attracted a great deal more attention than the

car! Apart from the Section cars there were some interesting models and Marques including an Austin A30 Pick-up, a 1927 Morris Oxford and a couple of Model T Fords. Of course I have already mentioned the Riley with the unorthodox mascot. The whole show was in aid of Mencap and it appears that there was tremendous local interest. Although the gates did not officially open to the public until 11.00am people were trying to get in from about 9.00am onwards. In all it turned out to be a most enjoyable day, well worth the 170-mile round trip and no thunder and lightning at the end.



The Section Newsletter is published in January, April, July and October. Copy deadline for each Newsletter is 15th of the month preceding publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit any copy submitted. Please note that the opinions expressed and advice offered in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Committee or Editor. The North Eastern Section of the RREC accepts no responsibility for the results of adopting any advice contained in this newsletter. When possible, a short report is submitted to The Spirit & Speed for the Section News pages. The deadline for submission of these reports can be found on contacts page of Spirit and Speed and if you have any items for inclusion in this report, please submit them to John Harison, as above, and in good time. The trademarks ROLLS-ROYCE and the ROLLS-ROYCE badge device are the trademarks of Rolls-Royce plc. Members are reminded that they should at all times use their best endeavours to preserve the value and validity of the brand names and trademarks of both Rolls-Royce plc and of the club.